

**PATENT**

Attorney Docket No. 2356.0010-05

Customer Number: 22,852

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Marc ALIZON et al. ) Group Art Unit: Unknown  
)  
Serial No.: To Be Assigned ) Examiner: Unknown  
(Based on 08/423,477 (04/19/95)) )  
)  
Filed: November 13, 2001 )  
)  
For: A VARIANT OF LAV VIRUSES )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 1.

Please add the following new claims:

-- 23. (New) A polypeptide fragment,

wherein said polypeptide fragment binds to antibodies in LAS patient sera, and

wherein said polypeptide fragment comprises an HIV-1<sub>ELI</sub> epitope that does not react with antibodies directed against specific epitopes of HIV-1<sub>IIIb</sub>, HIV-1<sub>BRU</sub>, HIV-1<sub>ARV-2</sub>, or HIV-1<sub>MAL</sub>.

24. (New) The polypeptide fragment of claim 23, wherein said polypeptide fragment comprises 5-150 amino acid residues.

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25. (New) An immunogenic composition comprising the polypeptide fragment of claim 23.

26. (New) An immunogenic composition comprising the polypeptide fragment of claim 24.

27. (New) A polypeptide fragment,  
wherein said polypeptide fragment binds to antibodies in LAS patient sera, and  
wherein said polypeptide fragment comprises an HIV-1<sub>ELI</sub> epitope that does not react with  
antibodies directed against specific epitopes of HIV-1<sub>IIB</sub>, HIV-1<sub>BRU</sub>, or HIV-1<sub>ARV-2</sub>.

28. (New) The polypeptide fragment of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide fragment  
comprises 5-150 amino acid residues.

29. (New) An immunogenic composition comprising the polypeptide fragment of  
claim 27.

30. (New) An immunogenic composition comprising the polypeptide fragment of  
claim 28. --

#### REMARKS

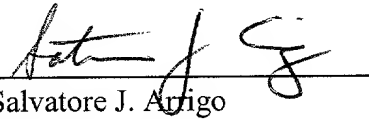
Claims 1 has been canceled. Claims 80-87 are new and are fully supported by the  
specification, for example, on pages 28 and 32. No new matter enters by amendment.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. If the  
Examiner should disagree, he is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining  
issues.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: 

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Date: November 13, 2001

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**SUBMISSION OF FORMAL DRAWINGS**


Subject to the approval of the Examiner, applicants submit herewith 34 sheets of formal drawings filed (Figures 1A, 1B, 2, 3A-1, 3A-2, 3B-1, 3B-2, 3C-1, 3C-2, 3D-1, 3D-2, 3E-1, 3E-2, 3F-1, 3F-2, 4A, 4B, 5, 6A-1, 6A-2, 6A-3, 6B-1, 6B-2, 6B-3, 6B-4; 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G, 7H, and 7I). If the formal drawings for any reason are not in full compliance with the pertinent statutes and regulations, please so advise the undersigned.

If any fees are necessary for the submission of these formal drawings, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: November 13, 2001

By:   
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